

## REMARKS

In regard to the Examiner's objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), Applicant is submitting herewith a proposed drawing amendment, namely adding new figure, Figure 5, wherein the cooperating hook and loop portions are shown in the proposed new Figure 5, such that the hook and loop portions would be labeled with reference numbers 42a and 42b, which reference numbers will be incorporated into the specifications, specifically at lines 21 and 22 on page 9 of the specifications upon approval by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and approve the proposed drawing amendment and thereafter remove this basis of objection. The proposed Figure 5 is herewith enclosed.

In regard to the Examiner's objection to the specifications, Applicant respectfully points out that in speaking of the template for preparing a wiring harness on page 10, lines 1-2, Applicant is speaking generally of the overall invention, not a specific component, and as Applicant has labeled the invention with reference numeral 10 generally, Applicant suggests that no error is present in Applicant's specification at page 10, lines 1-2 and respectfully asks that this basis of objection be removed.

In regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 6, 9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitamura, the rejection of claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Ono et al., the rejection of claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Tarbox, the rejection of claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Tussing, the rejection of claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Kitchens et al., and the rejection of claims 8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of DeSanto, Applicant submits that his invention, as now claimed, is new and non-obvious in light of the prior art.

Specifically, the Kitamura device is a wiring protector that is used to provide a protector onto a wiring harness and is used in combination with other jigs, column 1, lines 7-10. The device is T-shaped and as such, some of the flanges are not straight due to the need to follow the T-shaped contour and as a result, the channel formed by the flanges is not straight. This is necessary due to the fact, that since the Kitamura device stays with the wiring harness upon assembly of the harness, the flanges, in combination with the base of the channel and the protective cover 25, must provide protective integrity to the device in order for the device to perform its protective function of protecting the wiring harness from damage or breakage. As a result, the discontinuities of the flanges are not along a straight flange due to the T-shaped geometry of the device. There is no teaching of the discontinuities located along a straight flange and no suggestion for such discontinuities due to the fact that any branch of the wiring harness formed with the Kitamura device has a structural branch as part of the Kitamura device in order to provide structural protection to the branch of the wiring harness being formed. On the other hand, Applicant's device, not needing to provide protection to the wiring harness, rather providing merely a construction template for the wiring harness being formed, uses a station that has straight flanges that form straight channels with at least some of the flanges having a medially located discontinuity thereon in order to provide branching ability for the harness being formed. This architecture is neither taught nor suggested by the Kitamura device, either alone or in combination with the other cited art, as the Kitamura device has necessary non-straight flanges and channels, with the discontinuities of the flanges being located on a non-straight portion of the flange due to the need to provide structural protection to the wiring harness being formed with the help of the Kitamura device.

Furthermore, due to the need for the wiring guide rod 8 to have a length of up and down travel within its cylinder, the station does not sit on a base member but sits above the base member on a fixing jig 2 projecting from the upper surface of the wiring base, column 3, lines 57-59. However, Applicant's device, having no need for a guide rod to have a length of up and

down travel, has his stations sit directly on the top surface of the base member for ease and simplicity of construction, an architecture, that if employed by Kitamura, would render his device non-operational due to the fact that his guide rods would not be able to travel up and down as required by the device. Accordingly, the Kitamura device teaches away from having its protective cover sit directly on the top surface of the wiring base.

Additionally, as the Kitamura device is intended to provide protection to the harness being formed and the need to have guide posts 8 and supporting rods 11, the protector case 20 is positioned at a fixed location based on the fixed position of the guide posts 8 and supporting rods 11. This is so because the thrust of the Kitamura device is to provide a protective case and cover for the wiring harness being formed, not to assist in guiding the assembler with the precise geometry of the harness being formed. On the other hand, Applicant's device is concerned with the precise geometry of the harness being formed, as the device assists the assembler in creating the correct geometry, Applicant's invention acts in template fashion and as a result, the station is positionable at multiple locations on the base member and in various orientations with respect to the base member, a situation that is not possible with the Kitamura device. The fact that the Kitamura protective case 20 remains in a fixed position, teaches away from having a station that is positionable at multiple locations on the top surface of the base member and in various orientations with respect to the base member and thus also teaches away from using either a pegboard-type assembly or a cooperating hook and loop type of assembly for providing removable attachment of the protective case to the wiring base and therefore, combining the teachings of Kitamura with that of Kitchens et al., neither teaches nor suggests Applicant's claims 7 and 15, and combining the teaching of Kitamura with that of DeSanto neither teaches nor suggests Applicant's claims 8 and 16.

Lastly, the Kitamura device is designed so that once the wiring harness is formed within the device, the device is removed from the wiring jig and remains with the wiring harness as a

protective device and cover. Applicant's device is the exact opposite so that once the wiring harness is assembled using Applicant's device, the wiring harness is removed from the stations and the device is reused as needed.

With respect to claims 2 and 10, the retaining member 6 of the Ono et al., device is designed to rotate along an axis that is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the channel formed by the device. This is necessary due to the particular construction of the retaining mechanism employing retaining means onto which the retaining member clamps down onto, the rather elaborate retaining mechanism being due to the fact that Ono et al., teaches a protector and a strong retaining mechanism assists in the protective function. On the other hand, Applicant uses a simple stop member that has an axis of rotation that is generally normal to the top surface of the base member whenever the station is attached to the base member. This allows a much simpler stop, which is all that is needed as the wiring harness is placed into the station only for the purposes of allowing templating of the wiring harness without the need to provide protection to the harness against breakage. Therefore, combining the teaching of Kitamura with that of Ono et al., neither teach nor suggest Applicant's invention in claims 2 and 10.

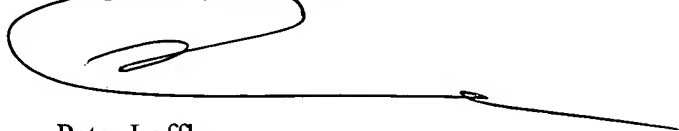
Finally, with respect to claims 5 and 13, Applicant respectfully states that it is not obvious to combine the teachings of Kitamura with that of Tussing, as there is no motivation to so combine. Wiring harnesses are usually assembled from wires that are found on spools, even if a jig is being used, with the wire being fed from the spools into the harness and into the jig assembly if used, this is not new. Applicant has invented a more complete method of so feeding the wires from the spools to the harness being assembled by providing a stanchion on the base member in order to have the spool directly on the base of the jig instead of to the side as is now common practice.

As the remaining cited prior art is only of an incidental nature, it will not be discussed in detail.

Accordingly, Applicant's invention is new and novel with respect to the prior art.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, therefore an early notice to this effect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing was deposited with the United States Postal Service, First Class Postage prepaid, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, this 6th day of December, 2004.

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Peter Loffler